

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior revisions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for solving a Model Predictive Control problem to control a plant including the steps of:

a) forming a Large Sparse Matrix Equation, LSME, based upon the Model Predictive Control problem;

b) repeatedly, at least once per controller update, sampling commands and feedback sensors to pose a determination of actuator commands in terms of a solution of a quadratic programming problem based upon model predictive control;

c) forming a square root of H, Hr, where H is a submatrix of the LSME that varies only once per controller update and Hr is a block triangular matrix in which each block along a diagonal is triangular;

d) forming a square root of a Large Sparse Matrix of the LSME, LSMroot, using Hr in each of a plurality of iterations of a quadratic programming solver within each controller update, and LSMroot is block triangular matrix in which each block along the diagonal is triangular; ~~and~~

e) completing the solution of the LSME based upon LSMroot in each iteration; and

f) outputting the plurality of actuator commands based upon the solution of the quadratic programming problem from the quadratic programming solver in each controller update to a plurality of actuators to control operation of a plant.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein Hr is calculated in a first of the plurality of iterations and is not recalculated for subsequent ones of the plurality of iterations.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein in said step c), Hr is formed without first forming H.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said step c) is performed with a sequence of QR factorizations.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 where $H = H_r' * S * H_r$ and $H_r = L W^T$ where

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} F_0 & & & & & & & & & & \\ -M_1 B_0 & I & & & & & & & & & \\ & 0 & I & -M_1 & & & & & & & \\ & & 0 & G_1 & F_1 & & & & & & \\ & & & -M_2 A_1 & -M_2 B_1 & I & & & & & \\ & & & & 0 & I & -M_2 & & & & \\ & & & & & \ddots & & & & & \\ & & & & & & 0 & G_{N-1} & F_{N-1} & & \\ & & & & & & & -M_N A_{N-1} & -M_N B_{N-1} & I & \\ & & & & & & & & 0 & I & -M_N \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} I & & & & & & & & & & \\ & -I & & & & & & & & & \\ & & I & & & & & & & & \\ & & & I & & & & & & & \\ & & & & -I & & & & & & \\ & & & & & I & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \ddots & & & & \\ & & & & & & & I & & & \\ & & & & & & & & -I & & \\ & & & & & & & & & I & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} I & & & & & & & & & & \\ & M_1 & & & & & & & & & \\ & & I & & & & & & & & \\ & & & I & & & & & & & \\ & & & & M_2 & & & & & & \\ & & & & & I & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \ddots & & & & \\ & & & & & & & I & & & \\ & & & & & & & & M_N & & \\ & & & & & & & & & I & \end{bmatrix}$$

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 where the submatrices F, G, and M are produced by the recursive sequence of QR factorizations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{Q}^{1/2}C_n & \mathcal{Q}^{1/2}D_n \\ M_nA_{n-1} & M_nB_{n-1} \\ 0 & R^{1/2} \end{bmatrix} = Ortho * \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ M_{n-1} & 0 \\ G_{n-1} & F_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

for various future controller update time points in the prediction horizon.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the LSMroot is formed in said step d) without first forming the LSM.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step d) is performed by solving a normal or generalized QR factorization.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step d) is performed by solving a generalized QR factorization customized for an interior point method.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 where the generalized QR factorization is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ P \end{bmatrix} = U \cdot Pin, \text{ where } Pin = \begin{bmatrix} T^{-T} J \\ L \end{bmatrix}, U^T \begin{bmatrix} I \\ S \end{bmatrix} U = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ S \end{bmatrix}$$

where Pin and S are inputs and triangular P and, possibly, U are outputs, and where

$$LSM_{root} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} T & -T^{-T} J \\ 0 & P \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I \\ W^{-T} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \text{and } Sr=I.$$

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step d) is performed by solving a generalized QR factorization customized for an active set method.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 where the generalized QR factorization is

$$S_R^{1/2} P = S^{1/2} U \cdot Pin, \text{ where } Pin = L^{-T} J^T, U^T S \cdot U = S$$

where Pin and S are inputs and P and Sr, and possibly, U are outputs and where

$$LSM_{root} = \begin{bmatrix} P & 0 \\ SL^{-T} J^T & L \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I \\ W^{-T} \end{bmatrix}$$

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 where the generalized QR factorization is accomplished via a standard Householder transform based QR algorithm that is

modified by replacing the sequence of Householder transforms $U_i = \left(I - 2 \frac{v \cdot v^T}{v^T \cdot v} \right)$,

which are normally used with a corresponding sequence of generalized

transformations $U_i = \left(I - 2 \frac{v \cdot v^T S}{v^T S \cdot v} \right)$. U is unneeded but, if desired, is the

cumulative product of the U_i .

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 where the result of generalized QR factorization, which is a triangular matrix consisting of rows containing either purely real numbers or purely imaginary numbers, is further factored into the product of a diagonal matrix, $S_R^{1/2}$, which has either 1 or the square root of -1 on the diagonal, and a purely real triangular matrix, and wherein the square of this diagonal matrix, S_R , will then have either 1 or -1 on the diagonal, and S_R and P are purely real numbers.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 further including the step of factoring the LSM to use only real numbers as:

$$LSM = LSM_{root}^T \begin{bmatrix} -S_R & 0 \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix} LSM_{root}$$

where S and S_R are constant diagonal matrices with only 1 or -1 entries along the diagonal, and where LSM_{root} is a block triangular matrix where each diagonal submatrix is also triangular.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the LSME has the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -T^T T & J \\ J^T & H \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} m \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} K \\ f \end{bmatrix}$$

where z is a vector containing states, controls and state equation adjoint variables for each time point, grouped by time; m includes adjoint variables for inequality constraints, grouped by time; f and K are vectors; H and J are banded matrices; and T is a diagonal matrix or zero.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a plant system including the steps of:
- a) ~~Receiving~~ receiving a plurality of sensor signals indicating current conditions of the system;
 - b) ~~Receiving~~ receiving a plurality of commands;
 - c) ~~Determining~~ determining a desired dynamic response of the system based upon the commands;
 - d) in each of a plurality of time steps, formulating a problem of achieving a desired dynamic response for a window spanning multiple time steps as a solution to a quadratic program problem using methods of model predictive control and the sensor signals;
 - e) solving the quadratic programming problem in each time step using an iterative algorithm in which a Large Sparse Matrix Equation, LSME, is formed based upon the model predictive control problem and a quadratic programming algorithm;
 - f) in a first iteration of the iterative algorithm, forming a square root of H , H_r ;
 - g) in iterations including the first iteration and iterations subsequent to the first iteration of the iterative algorithm, forming a square root of a Large Sparse Matrix of the LSME, LSM_{root} , using H_r in a quadratic programming solver; ~~and~~
 - h) in iterations including the first iteration and iterations subsequent to the first iteration of the iterative algorithm, completing the solution of the LSME based upon LSM_{root} ;
 - i) generating a plurality of actuator commands based upon the solution to the quadratic programming problem from said step e); and
 - j) outputting the plurality of actuator commands to a plurality of actuators acting upon the plant.

18. (Currently Amended) A model predictive control system for controlling a plant comprising:

a plurality of sensors indicating a current state of the system;

a desired trajectory generator for creating a desired dynamic response based upon commands;

starting with a current state of the system, a quadratic programming module formulating a problem of achieving the desired dynamic response based upon the current state of the system for a window spanning multiple time steps as a solution to a quadratic program problem using methods of model predictive control;

a quadratic programming solver solving the quadratic programming problem in each time step using an iterative algorithm in which a Large Sparse Matrix Equation, LSME, is formed based upon the model predictive control problem and a quadratic programming algorithm, the solver forming a square root of H , H_r , in a first iteration of the iterative algorithm, the solver forming a square root of a Large Sparse Matrix of the LSME, LSM_{root} , using H_r in a quadratic programming solver in iterations including the first iteration and a plurality of iterations subsequent to the first iteration of the iterative algorithm, the solver completing the solution of the LSME based upon LSM_{root} in iterations including the first iteration and the plurality of iterations subsequent to the first iteration of the iterative algorithm, the solver outputting a plurality of actuator commands for achieving the desired dynamic response based upon the solution to the quadratic programming problem to control a plant.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the solver forms H_r in the first iteration and does not recalculate H_r in the plurality of iterations subsequent to the first iteration of the iterative algorithm.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the solver forms H_r without first forming H .

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein $H = H_r' * S * H_r$ and $H_r = L W^{-T}$ where

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} F_0 & & & & & & & & & & \\ -M_1 B_0 & I & & & & & & & & & \\ 0 & & I & -M_1 & & & & & & & \\ & & 0 & G_1 & F_1 & & & & & & \\ & & & -M_2 A_1 & -M_2 B_1 & I & & & & & \\ & & & & 0 & I & -M_2 & & & & \\ & & & & & \ddots & & \ddots & & & \\ & & & & & & 0 & G_{N-1} & F_{N-1} & & \\ & & & & & & & -M_N A_{N-1} & -M_N B_{N-1} & I & \\ & & & & & & & & 0 & I & -M_N \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} I & & & & & & & & & & \\ & -I & & & & & & & & & \\ & & I & & & & & & & & \\ & & & I & & & & & & & \\ & & & & -I & & & & & & \\ & & & & & I & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \ddots & & & & \\ & & & & & & & I & & & \\ & & & & & & & & -I & & \\ & & & & & & & & & I & \end{bmatrix} \quad W = \begin{bmatrix} I & & & & & & & & & & \\ & M_1 & & & & & & & & & \\ & & I & & & & & & & & \\ & & & I & & & & & & & \\ & & & & M_2 & & & & & & \\ & & & & & I & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \ddots & & & & \\ & & & & & & & I & & & \\ & & & & & & & & M_N & & \\ & & & & & & & & & I & \end{bmatrix}$$

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 where the submatrices F, G, and M are produced by the recursive sequence of QR factorizations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} Q^{1/2} C_n & Q^{1/2} D_n \\ M_n A_{n-1} & M_n B_{n-1} \\ 0 & R^{1/2} \end{bmatrix} = Ortho * \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ M_{n-1} & 0 \\ G_{n-1} & F_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

for various future controller update time points in the prediction horizon.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the solver forms LSMroot without first forming the LSM.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the solver forms the LSMroot by solving a normal or generalized QR factorization.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the solver forms the LSMroot by solving a generalized QR factorization customized for an interior point method.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 where the generalized QR factorization is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ P \end{bmatrix} = U \cdot Pin, \text{ where } Pin = \begin{bmatrix} T^{-T} J \\ L \end{bmatrix}, U^T \begin{bmatrix} I \\ S \end{bmatrix} U = \begin{bmatrix} I \\ S \end{bmatrix}$$

where Pin and S are inputs and triangular P and, possibly, U are outputs, and where

$$LSM_{root} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} T & -T^{-T} J \\ 0 & P \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I \\ W^{-T} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \text{and } Sr=I.$$

27. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the solver forms LSMroot by solving a generalized QR factorization customized for an active set method.

28. (Original) The system of Claim 27 where the generalized QR factorization is

$$S_R^{1/2} P = S^{1/2} U \cdot Pin, \text{ where } Pin = L^{-T} J^T, U^T S \cdot U = S$$

where Pin and S are inputs and P and Sr, and possibly, U are outputs and where

$$LSM_{root} = \begin{bmatrix} P & 0 \\ SL^{-T} J^T & L \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I \\ W^{-T} \end{bmatrix}$$

29. (Original) The system of Claim 28 where the generalized QR factorization is accomplished via a standard Householder transform based QR algorithm that is modified by

replacing the sequence of Householder transforms $U_i = \left(I - 2 \frac{v \cdot v^T}{v^T \cdot v} \right)$, which are normally

used with a corresponding sequence of generalized transformations $U_i = \left(I - 2 \frac{v \cdot v^T S}{v^T S \cdot v} \right)$.

U is unneeded but, if desired, is the cumulative product of the U_i .

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 where the result of generalized QR factorization, which is a triangular matrix consisting of rows containing either purely real numbers or purely imaginary numbers, is further factored into the product of a diagonal matrix, $S_R^{1/2}$, which has either 1 or the square root of -1 on the diagonal, and a purely real triangular matrix and wherein a square of this diagonal matrix, S_r , will then have either 1 or -1 on the diagonal, and S_r and P are purely real numbers.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the solver factors the LSM to use only real numbers as:

$$LSM = LSM_{root}^T \begin{bmatrix} -S_R & 0 \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix} LSM_{root}$$

where S and S_R are constant diagonal matrices with only 1 or -1 entries along the diagonal, and where LSM_{root} is a block triangular matrix where each diagonal submatrix is also triangular.

32. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the LSME has the form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -T^T T & J \\ J^T & H \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} m \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} K \\ f \end{bmatrix}$$

where z is a vector containing states, controls and state equation adjoint variables for each time point, grouped by time; m includes adjoint variables for inequality constraints, grouped by time; f and K are vectors; H and J are banded matrices; and T is a diagonal matrix or zero.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of operating ~~the a~~-plurality of actuators on ~~the a~~-plant based upon the plurality of actuator commands, wherein the feedback sensors are measuring physical variables of the plant.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 further including a plurality of actuators acting upon the plant ~~system~~-based upon the plurality of actuator commands to effect the desired dynamic response.